GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1615
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002
QUALITY OF RAILS
AMAR ROY PRADHAN;PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many train disaster had occurred due to poor quality of rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) fell far short of safety standards;

(b) if so, the number of accidents had occurred due to this quality of rails and to the loss suffered thereby;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the supplying agencies;

(d) whether the hydrogen content was recently brought down from 3 ppm to 2and the BSP was taking efforts to supply rails of this standard, as reported in `The Hindu,` dated August 8, 2002; and

(e) if so, the other remedial steps taken by the Government in this regards?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTR OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1615 BY SHRI A ROYPRADHAN AND SHRI PRABODH PANDA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.11.2002 REGARDING QUAL RAILS.

(a) to (e): Some train accidents have occurred due to rail failure on Indian Railways in the past.In one of the accidents, which occurred near Khanna in 1998, the Commissioner of Railway Safety had put the blame for the rail failure on Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)The loss suffered by the Railways in this accident was estimated to be Rs.2.89 crores. A judicial inquiry for this accident is also in progress.

BSP had been supplying the rails to Indian Railways with some temporary relaxations, without compromising safety, to avoid imports. However, these relaxations have also been withdrawn since 1.1.99. The inspection of rails which was earlier done by Directorate General Supplies and Disposal, have now been transferred to M/s RITES Ltd. since 1.4.2001.

It is true that the hydrogen content in rail has been further brought down from 3ppm to 2 ppm since June 2002. BSP has taken various steps to supply rails as per this standard. BSP has also installed On Line USFD machine and Eddy Current Flaw Detection machine for testing of all the rails.